

TUESDAY
JULY 29, 2008

This investment worth the price

To the Editor:

I sincerely appreciate the effort by many, including the *Eagle Times*, to help me continue to shine a light on our dysfunctional county delegation.

In the *Eagle Times* editorial dated July 20, you were absolutely correct in stating the public will decide in November whether we want to continue this type of representation or whether we need a change to more open and non-partisan approach to fix our county finances.

However, if the Claremont City Council had not unanimously stepped forward to ask for an inquiry into the secret proceedings, it likely never would have happened. Thus, the county delegation would continue its work in obscurity to the detriment to households across the city.

It is without question the City Council's responsibility to protect the integrity of the manner in which the city is assessed by the county. The City Council of Claremont found it incumbent to ensure the process and practice is legal, ethical and in the best interest of the public. Not doing so would have been a failure of leadership, something in which the county delegation knows first hand.

Finally, the term "time and money" is often used as a cliché to try and justify something without the facts. Unfortunately, the *Eagle Times* editorial fell into this trap. The council spent about 20 minutes thoroughly discussing whether to ask for further information regarding these secret meet-

ings. The amount of money spent... \$0.42, the price of the postage to send the letter to Concord. If the *Eagle Times* is concerned about such an expenditure, I can assure you, this investment is well worth the price.

Although this inquiry costs less than the daily edition of the newspaper, the effort will serve the citizens of Claremont better in order to make sure the County Delegation is held accountable for its actions and the citizens of Claremont are protected from secret budget process where decisions are made in a hallway.

Jeff Goff
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